

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

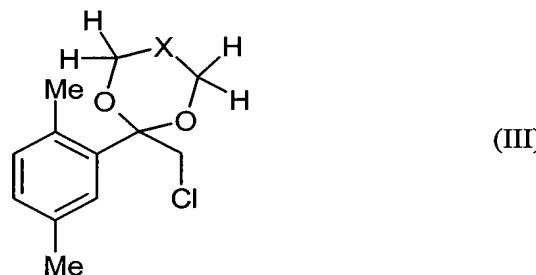
1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid, characterized in that p-xylene is converted with chloroacetyl chloride in a Friedel-Crafts reaction into 2-chloro-1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone, which is reacted with the compound of the formula (II)



in which

X is a direct single bond[[,]] selected from the group consisting of CH_2 , CHCH_3 , $\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ [[or]] and $\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$,

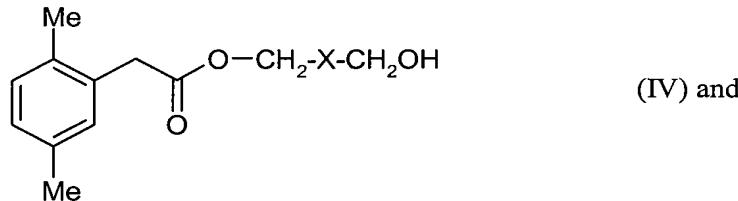
to give the compound of the formula (III)

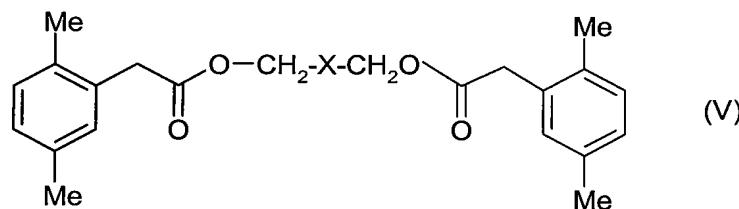


in which

X has the meaning indicated above;

the compound of the formula (III) is then rearranged to give a mixture of the formulae (IV) and (V)





in which

X has the meanings indicated above,

and the latter is then hydrolyzed to 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for preparing 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid as claimed in claim 1, where X is a direct single bond[[,]] selected from the group consisting of CH₂, C(CH₃)₂ [[or]] and C(C₂H₅)₂.

3. (Currently amended) The method for preparing 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid as claimed in claim 1, where X is a direct single bond[[,]] selected from the group consisting of C(CH₃)₂ [[or]] and C(C₂H₅)₂.

4. (Cancelled)